

EDITORIAL

the payment of high salaries and the soliciting of business, the cost of life insurance could be reduced by forty or fifty per cent under State life insurance.

It would not be necessary for the State of Florida to solicit business.

It would only be necessary for the State to give notice to its citizens that it stood ready to protect their families upon payment of the *actual expense of operating*.

As to the safety of State life insurance there need be no argument. It would be the safest life insurance that could be devised.

The credit of the State rests entirely upon the will of the people, and the people themselves who would become clients of the State would see to it that the State carried out its contracts to the letter.

As to the argument—political machine—that *might* be built up under State life insurance, it is not worthy of serious thought. No State having a primary system of nominating candidates by the secret ballot can harbor a political machine within its borders. Political machine means, political machinists, and political machinists can not operate successfully unless they can do it secretly and by combining a few sworn to stick together to manipulate conventions, that in turn manipulate elections.

Where every man goes into the poll and casts his ballot for those who are to be voted for in the general election, combinations are impossible.

So the argument in favor of State life insurance has two propositions:

It is safer and it is cheaper.

The arguments against it can be reduced to one:

It will create a political machine.

The difference between the two arguments for the proposition and the one argument against it, is that the two are good and the one is not good.

I believe that the fight for State life insurance is in the hands of the Senate, just as I believed that the fight for drainage was located there. From the talks I have had with members on this subject, I am convinced that the House is ready to pass the bill.

From the talks I have had with Senators on this subject I am not convinced that the Senate is ready to pass it, but I earnestly hope that the Senate will pass it.

It is due to the people of Florida.

It is due to the Governor, who has made a campaign for it and who presents in his message unanswerable arguments in its favor—arguments gathered by an exhaustive, painstaking and laborious research, covering a period of two years.

It is due to Senator Trammell, who has worked faithfully in the vineyard of the public weal.

It is due to the Senators themselves.

A great opportunity presents itself to them.

Let each Senator make up his mind to grasp it.

Monday is the day.

HELP ALONG THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

Senator Buckman has a bill to encourage the holding of fairs and expositions. Briefly, this bill authorizes the County Commissioners of each county to appropriate money in support of State or county fairs.

Public money should be spent for public purposes, and State and county fairs are public purposes.

There may be some people who derive personal benefit from State and county fairs, but there is no denying the truth of the proposition that fairs do an IMMENSE AMOUNT OF GOOD to the GENERAL PUBLIC.

This bill of Senator Buckman's will give County Commissioners the legal right to spend public money to encourage fairs.

Several boards of County Commissioners have spent this money anyhow, but they have done it CONTRARY TO LAW.

Public sentiment is certainly in favor of this way of spending public money, or those County Commissioners who authorized and made these expenditures would have been punished for their illegal acts.

Senator Buckman's bill should pass, so that County Commissioners may do legally what they now do illegally and are upheld by the public for doing.

GIVE THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH PROPER SCOPE AND POWERS.

I have had something to say more than once about legislation for the State Board of Health.

It has been my misfortune to disagree with Dr. Porter, and those who have been behind legislation of this kind, as to the details of Board of Health legislation, and perhaps I was also unfortunate enough to contribute in a small measure—a very small measure—to the defeat of the Board of Health bill, on account of my pointing out some bad features in it.

Whether this be true or not, the fact is, that the House refused to pass any part of the Board of Health bill.

This was an excess of caution, because I believed that most of the bill should have been enacted.

There is now pending in the House a new Board of Health bill, introduced by Dr. Smith of Lake.

It has been amended so as to exclude objectionable features.

If there was one person who was influenced to oppose the passage of the old Board of Health bill by any criticism printed in this paper, I now respectfully and earnestly request him to get behind this new bill and push it to an early passage.

The work of the State Board of Health has been of incalculable benefit to the State of Florida.

If it had done nothing else, the establishment of the Bacteriological Laboratory is worth all that the State Board of Health has ever cost the State, plus all that it will cost it for many years to come.

By means of this laboratory practitioners may be certain of their diagnoses of many cases. They may be certain that their patient has or has not diphtheria, typhoid fever, smallpox, tuberculosis, hydrophobia, and other diseases which I don't know the names of, by sending a specimen to the laboratory of the State Board of

Editorial Continued on Page Four.

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